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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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April 13, 2016

Don Lee Merrick
DONMERRICK@msn.com
By electronic mail only

Subject: Response to Citizen Comments, Mountain Valley Stone, Inc., Brown's Canyon Quarry, M/043/0019, Summit County, Utah

Dear Mr. Merrick:

In your electronic mail message sent March 31, 2016, addressed to Leslie Heppler, you asked the following question and made further comments:

"Should the Planned Expansion be considered significant?"

1. "The disturbed area will triple with this revision."
2. "It is also anticipated that the surety amount will increase by more than 50% of the existing surety amount."
3. "With triple the disturbance, and the potential to impact wetlands, additional and cumulative environmental impacts should be considered to be significant. The new expansion plan will expand their open pit operation across a low wetland area that lies right in the center of the planned expansion. Since they encountered ground water in their current operation at shallow levels it is very likely they will hit ground water again providing opportunity to contaminate both ground water and surface waters in the new expansion."

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) considers the Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations submitted on March 18, 2016 as a revision per rule R647-4-118, and it will be subject to public notice (R647-4-116). The Division's tentative decision to approve the revision will be advertised when it is considered complete.

These responses should adequately address your questions and concerns, as the Division is able to do so within the scope of its authority. Please contact Leslie Heppler at 801-538-5257 or me at 801-538-5261 with further questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker
Minerals Program Manager

PBB: lah: eb

cc: Hollie Brown, (holliebrown@utah.gov); Robert Hicken, MVS (Robert@utahstone.com)
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